

MIP

MISSOURI PRESS

NEWS

2024 MPA President Amos Bridges hopes to help newspapers work together more.



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I ♥ journalism

If there had been doors on the bathroom stalls at Nixa High School, I might have ended up an attorney instead of a journalist.

All through grade school, teachers had been telling my parents I'd be right at home in a courtroom — a nice way of saying, “your kid’s smart, but not as smart as his mouth.” Luckily, my legal career got sidetracked before I wound up in front of a judge less tolerant than those teachers had been.

In those days, the teaching staff at Nixa High School encouraged independent thinking and I owe it to those educators — in English and art and debate and others — for steering me toward constructive pursuits, where a love for words and an underdeveloped respect for authority sparked a special sort of alchemy.

Which brings me back to those doorless bathroom stalls.

After joining the school newspaper staff my junior or senior year, I'd somehow ended up a column writer. After 25+ years, I don't remember much of what I wrote, but I'm reasonably sure most of it was junk — attempted wit without much substance. I doubt the story I wrote about the open-air stalls in the boys' room was much different, but it's stuck in my mind because it embodied so much of what first attracted me to journalism:

Asking administrators impertinent questions? Check. Pointing out, with maximum snark, the holes and hypocrisy of their answers? You bet. (Apparently, doors might

have encouraged students to smoke cigarettes in the stalls ... though the stall doors in the ladies' room posed no such threat). I could even encourage my fellow students to rebel, *provide feedback* to the powers-that-be, without fear of reprisal.

There were other fringe benefits, to be sure — being part of the newspaper and yearbook staff made it trivially easy to leave campus for a mid-day smoke under the pretense of “selling ads.” But it was the Fourth Estate's fundamental ability to speak truth to power, to challenge the good ol' boys and gals and tell the tale “without fear or favor” that thrilled my inner punk.

Initial attraction doesn't always ensure a life-long love affair, but journalism has always been the total package, rewarding curiosity and transparency and marrying the analytical with the creative. Every story is a puzzle to be assembled — and if you're stumped, you can always go dig up more pieces. Crafting a lede or a headline can be as rewarding as writing a poem, finding that specific string of syllables that will cast a spell on the reader, using nothing more or less than the truth.

As the years have passed and I've transitioned from pugnacious reporter to cantankerous editor, my love for the craft has grown to include the camaraderie of the newsroom and the larger community of newspapers that the Missouri Press Association represents. The shared experiences in the trenches of a daily or weekly newspaper foster a special sort of

connection. I've often marveled at the way that former newspaper staff, decades removed from sometimes brief careers in the newsroom, still identify as journalists at heart.

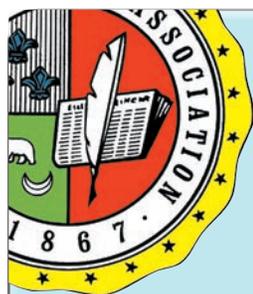
She can be a fickle mistress — ever so lovely when those public notice checks arrive or a scandal-plagued politician delivers pageviews by the barrel, cruel and uncaring when the price of newsprint doubles or a carrier quits right before the big Thanksgiving paper is supposed to be delivered.

As with most relationships, the enduring beauty is found in between, on those mundane Tuesdays writing up the latest doings at city council, finding the perfect photo to anchor 1A and making sure the stock prices get in by deadline so that one subscriber won't text at 7 a.m. asking whether Walmart was up or down at market close.

Fickle, sure. But then comes the next juicy news tip, the next pitch perfect lede, and all is forgiven.

“I ♥ journalism” isn't the sort of tattoo you can remove or cover up. It's stamped there, indelible, in ink absorbed through fingertips tap-tap-tapping away at the next day's news.

May she continue to show us all her love in 2024.



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34th Annual

Missouri Press Association Day at the Capitol • January 24 & 25, 2024

Wednesday, January 24, in Jefferson City

12:00 Noon: Missouri Press Foundation Board Meeting,

2:00 p.m.: Missouri Press Association and Service Board Meeting,

235 E. High Street, #301

5:00-6:15 p.m.: Reception,

Courtyard by Marriott Lobby | 610 Bolivar Street, Jefferson City

Thursday, January 25, 2024 in the State Capitol, Jefferson City

8:00-8:45 a.m.: Breakfast for MPA Members
(pastries and coffee), **3rd Floor Rotunda**

8:45-10:05 a.m.: Meet with your legislators.

10:10-11:45 a.m.: Day at the Capitol program, **3rd Floor, Senate Lounge**
Program Details To Be Announced

11:45 a.m.: Program to adjourn. Attendees will leave the Capitol for a brief walk to the Governor's Mansion.

Noon: Luncheon, **The Missouri Governor's Mansion**

**You must be registered with Missouri Press Association to attend the luncheon. Missouri Press Association pays for breakfast and lunch costs. There is no charge to members. However, last-minute cancellations will result in a \$40 cancellation fee.*

To Register for Day at the Capitol go to:

<https://mopress.wufoo.com/forms/mqk9r5s0v5fd4f/>



Send requests for 2024 press cards

From Missouri Press Staff

Submit requests for 2024 press cards and 2024-2025 MPA auto stickers today by going online or emailing staffers' names to Kristie Fortier at kfortier@mopress.com

There is no charge for press cards or auto stickers for MPA members; please include a total number of stickers needed for your organization. In all requests, please include mailing information for your newspaper.

Because staffing changes occur throughout the year, MPA does not keep a list of cards previously issued.

Members can also request copies of the 2024 MPA sticker calendar.

Email distribution list

Are all your staff who should be



receiving Missouri Press emails signed up? Much of the Association's communication with our members is through email, and we want to ensure everyone stays informed. We also distribute statewide ads via email.

If someone needs to be added, please send the names, job titles and email addresses to Matthew Barba at mbarba@mopress.com



CALENDAR

January

24 — Missouri Press Association, Service and Foundation Boards Meetings, Jefferson City

25 — MPA Day at the Capitol, Jefferson City

29 — Missouri Press Foundation Better Newspaper Contest Opens

31 — MPAME Best Ad Contest Deadline

Did you know?

You can find all of the latest registration forms for Missouri Press' events online at www.mopress.com.

The website also has award nomination forms, board of director applications and much more.

Remember: *A digital copy of your newspaper is required for MPA membership.*

WE WANT YOU!



Sign up to judge
Virginia Press Association's
Competition in News and
Advertising by January 12!

SIGN UP TODAY!

Virginia's contest judging will begin in early January and the deadline will be late January. If you plan to enter the Best Ad Contest or MPA's Better Newspaper Contest, MPA STRONGLY encourages you and your staff to sign up to judge for Virginia Press Association!

Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3wuuv5n5> to sign up.

Missouri Press Advertising and Marketing Executives

MPAME

2024

BEST AD CONTEST

Enter the 2024 MPAME Best Ad Contest and show everyone the great work you have done to drive revenue and maybe help others out in the process!

CONTEST INFORMATION

To find full information and rules, go to <https://mopress.com/ad-contest/>

MPAME Best Ad contest has a new contest template this year. Please go to newspapercontest.com/mopress early to register your newspaper and setup a password, so you're prepared to ask any questions you may have for entering! For the most part, entering and the rules will be the same, but the contest template is different. We want to be able to help you with anything you might have questions on.

Entries must have been published between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023.

The contest is open to all staff members of publications holding an Active, Active Online, Friend of, or Specialty Publication membership in Missouri Press Association.

All entries must be submitted as FULL-PAGE electronic tear sheet files. Please name the file(s) in a way that clearly identifies the ad(s) being submitted for judging. You may also circle or include other graphic markings to indicate which ad is to be judged. Please name files.

All entries must have been conceived, written, designed and sold by full or part-time employees of the newspaper.

Note: For large files, you may use an outside file hosting site and submit the URL. **You MUST make sure the file is public, or otherwise shareable and/or that a password is provided, so it can be viewed, printed or downloaded for judging and/or display purposes. Submit smaller files as PDFs within the template.**

A fee of \$7 per entry must be paid online, mailed or called in by time of entry deadline. Pay online at: <https://bit.ly/2Lg6FVe>. If mailing payment, please mail check to: MPAME Contest, 802 Locust Street, Columbia, MO 65201 or call credit card payment into the MPA office: 573-449-4167

ENTER ONLINE AT: newspapercontest.com/mopress

Find: 2024 Missouri Best Ad Contest | Deadline Jan. 30, 2024

Association Code: MOPRESS

If you have any questions OR feel your newspaper is in the wrong class, please contact Kristie Fortier at kfortier@mopress.com or call 573.449.4167

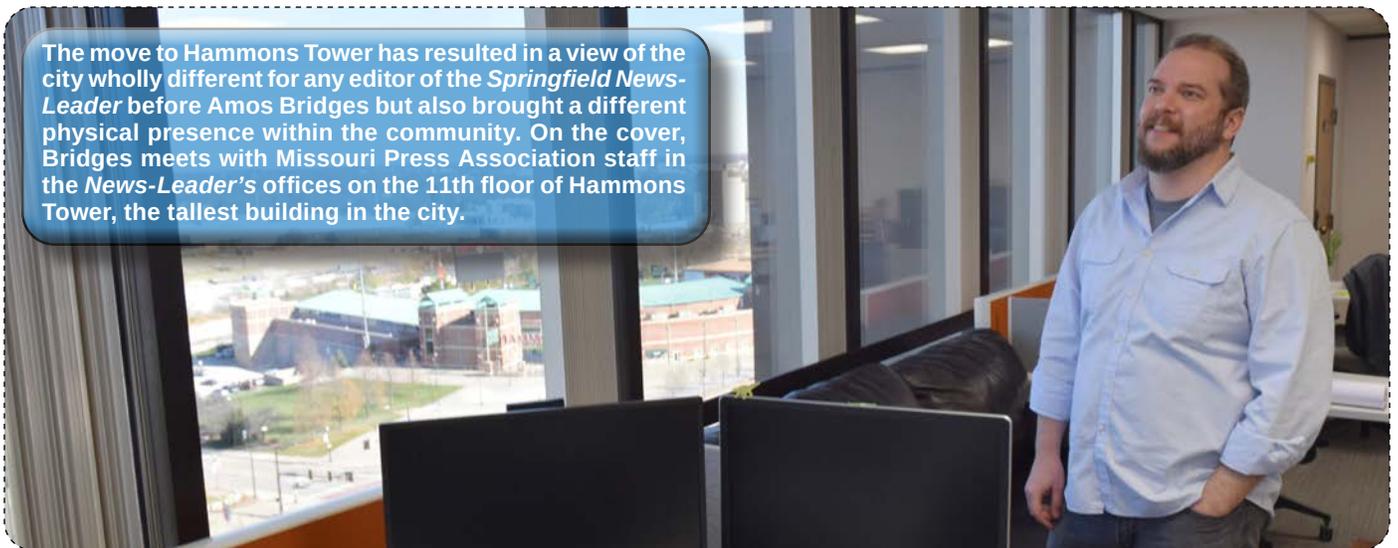
AWARDS & MEETING INFORMATION

Make plans now to attend the Missouri Press Advertising and Marketing Executives meeting being held on April 18-19, 2024.

Winners will be recognized, and awards presented **Thursday, April 20, 2023**

Event Registration form will be available in January of 2024, at www.mopress.com under **EVENTS**.

The move to Hammons Tower has resulted in a view of the city wholly different for any editor of the *Springfield News-Leader* before Amos Bridges but also brought a different physical presence within the community. On the cover, Bridges meets with Missouri Press Association staff in the *News-Leader's* offices on the 11th floor of Hammons Tower, the tallest building in the city.



Collaborating will be key to newspapers' future

Amos Bridges wants to use his time as 2024 Missouri Press Association president to help the industry do more together.

From Missouri Press Staff

Amos Bridges has overseen several major changes at the *Springfield News-Leader* since taking over as editor-in-chief a little more than four years ago, including moving office locations, employees organizing into a union and the switch to USPS delivery. The open bag of chewable antacids on his desk may or may not speak to how things are going at any given time.

From the *News-Leader's* offices on the 11th floor of Hammons Tower, the tallest building in Springfield, the newspaper has a significantly different physical presence in the community. However, the actual work the newspaper does has never been more important.

Bridges should know; before he became the top editor in December 2019, and also began overseeing the *Columbia Daily Tribune*, he was the *News-Leader's* investigative editor and watchdog coach. He also served a term recently as president of the Missouri Sunshine Coalition and remains on the board of directors.

Sitting down with Bridges, who took office Jan. 1, as Missouri Press Association's 2024 president, you'd be forgiven for thinking he's an optimist. He might be, or it might be projection, because to be honest, the topic of such a label never came up.

Continued on Page 7



Amos Bridges raises the Missouri Press Association President's gavel during the Newspaper Hall of Fame ceremony at the 157th Annual Convention in St. Louis. To his right, Bridges' wife, Paulette Harvey looks on. (Staff photos)

Continued from Page 6: *Finding the positive.*

But even if he isn't an optimist, when you talk with Bridges, he has a way of finding something positive in just about any situation, whether it's looking for a new hire or incentivizing his newsroom employees or explaining how a Taylor Swift-focused reporter hired by Gannett will be beneficial to the *News-Leader* and *Tribune*.

It's possible he looks for the positive as a result of a career built on collaboration, within the newsroom of a daily that covers one of the state's larger metro areas that isn't Kansas City or St. Louis. It also could be because Bridges' career started at a time when newspapers' annual revenues more often trended downward and the refrain from industry critics (and more than one insider) has been "print is dead."

"There has been a lot of premature 'print is dead' conversations, but I think the demand for print will stick around longer than people want to admit," Bridges said. "But it does have an expiration date."

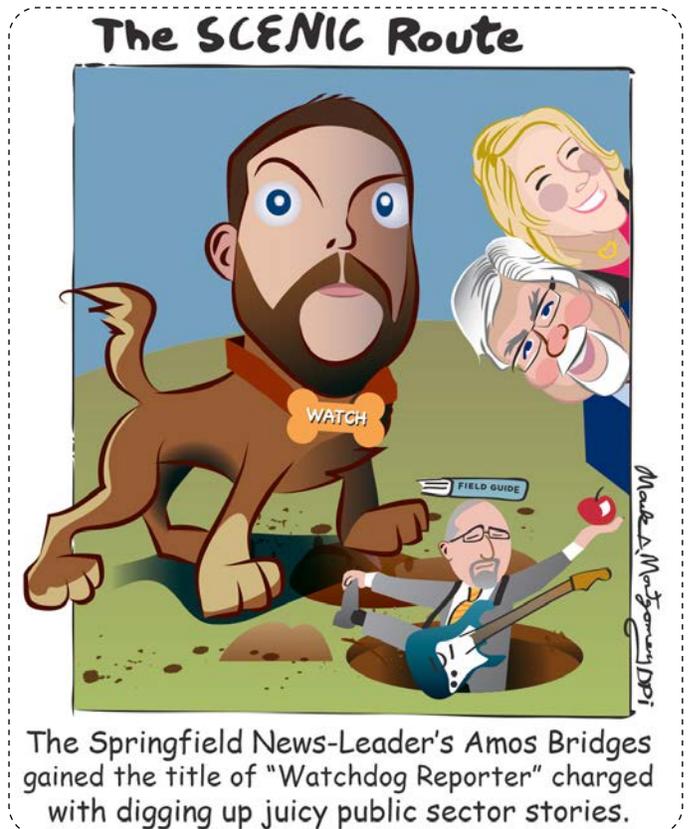
"People still want a print edition, and depending on the community, a lot of people may want a print edition, but that is changing," he said.

The next generation of readers

Bridges says the shift away from print is generational and often something he must explain to readers who call with questions or complaints. "I tell readers that they might not want to read on their phone, but their kids do, their grandkids do."

Because advertisers aren't subsidizing the cost of the newspaper anymore, the challenge becomes affordability and how to give readers a product they want and is worth paying for, in print and online. That's where decisions that might seem like a gimmick at first glance actually stand to help the local news the *News-Leader* and *Tribune* produce.

"I know when word got out that Gannett was hiring reporters to cover Beyonce and Taylor Swift, people thought that was ridiculous," Bridges said. "But to be honest, those stories are going to get way more page views than any local content, and they stand to bring extra traffic



The Springfield News-Leader's Amos Bridges gained the title of "Watchdog Reporter" charged with digging up juicy public sector stories.

After several years covering Springfield city government, Amos Bridges transitioned into a new position as the News-Leader "Watchdog" reporter and columnist. A member of the city's public information staff, who is also a talented cartoonist, commemorated the occasion (and Bridges' eyebrows). (Submitted/Mark Montgomery/City of Springfield)

to our website that puts eyeballs on the journalism that makes a difference to the people who live here."

In 2021, the *News-Leader* moved into its current office space in Hammons Tower, with Gannett selling the former building to a developer with plans for drive-through storage. Bridges says the tower has been good overall for the newspaper but laments the lack of lobby to interact with readers and customers who have questions or concerns.

Hiring for the future

It's obvious local news matters to Bridges, who recalls fondly his work covering city hall or when he spent a surprising amount of time walking around for a story about riding the city bus. It also comes through in his efforts to encourage his newsroom employees to make goals, from offering steak dinners for a certain number of digital subscribers to being willing to swallow his pride and visit the recently opened mega gas station Buc-ee's to indulge in its finest vegetarian offerings.

Bridges sees hiring as the biggest challenge for the newspaper industry going forward. Publications have to both support themselves and convince new entrants to the profession it's possible to make a living being journalists.

Concluded on Page 8



In 2016, Amos Bridges, then the Springfield News-Leader's watchdog coach, presents during MPA's 150th Annual Convention in Branson. His session covered how to improve reporting with records requests. (Staff file photo)

Continued from Page 7: Bridges sees hiring as the biggest challenge facing newspapers going forward.



Bridges says he learned early in his career to stay out of the photographer's way when on assignment, until in 2015 when he became the assignment and documented for the *News-Leader* what it was like riding the city bus. Bridges said the story required a surprising amount of walking around town but also resulted in some of his favorite photos from his career. (Submitted/Valerie Mosley/Springfield News-Leader)

"When you're hiring, there's a certain amount of anxiety and despair when you're not getting any job candidates," Bridges said. "Then you get the one miracle applicant, and you have to work fast to get them on board because you're competing with everyone else who is hiring."

A new reporter starting in January, who Bridges had just locked down around the time we met for this story, had actually been featured in the *News-Leader's* pages for winning a journalism award in high school.

Hiring in the newsroom is one thing, but newspapers are multi-faceted operations and finding candidates interested in delivering papers might be even harder than finding journalists. Bridges said the decision was made to move to USPS delivery as so many other newspapers have because there just aren't enough carriers to run delivery routes.

Even with hiring the right employees, newspapers have a herculean task of getting readers to pay attention, which is where celebrity-focused content can help draw readers to local news and employees are incentivized to think outside the box for coverage and audience retention.

Bridges told *Missouri Press News* previously he thinks "curiosity is dying, as a defense mechanism, to being so overloaded with information every minute of the day."

More often anymore, newspapers' potential audience seeks out information and entertainment that makes them feel better, or as multiple studies have shown over the years, respond to stories that reinforce their negativity bias about the world around them.

Still, Bridges seems to take the stress and tribulations that come with running editorial operations between the *News-Leader* and *Tribune* in stride, although the "I got mugged by Tony" Tony Messenger coffee cup on Bridges' desk looks permanently stained and probably isn't often empty.

Amos Bridges At a glance

- First introduction to journalism was Nixa High School's newspaper and yearbook club
- Bachelor's in English and creative writing from University of Missouri
- Has been at the News-Leader since 2004
- He "begged" his way into his first internship and just never left
- Likes "being paid to be curious" and sharing knowledge with others
- Tried to start a new newsroom tradition for Fourth of July of ice cream cake and chicken wings (because what's more American?) but had to stop as the howling wolf cake toppers became increasingly difficult to procure
- Once was offered (and took) a cookie by the late Bob Barker



Bridges hopes to use his time leading the Association to make things better for newspapers of all sizes, including exploring collaborative efforts that draw on Missouri Press' strengths.

"Similar to how Missouri Press Service does with ad sales, the public notice website and handling big orders from the state, I think there are areas where the Association can facilitate group solutions that can cover some of the shortfalls that are coming about because of staffing and technology changes," Bridges said.

He added that while there may not be universal solutions for many of the problems affecting the industry, the lessons that MPA members can teach each other and the best practices all publications can lean on are good places to start.

"I'll admit, it took me being involved on the Association board to realize this, but it's a big umbrella and not all newspapers are the same," Bridges said. "We all need to work together if we want to keep our industry going."

Amos Bridges is MPA's 2024 President. He officially took office on Jan. 1, after being elected president during MPA's 157th Annual Convention in St. Louis. He lives in Springfield with his wife Paulette Harvey, and their daughter, Isla.

MPA's 158th Annual Convention and Trade Show is scheduled for Sept. 19-21, at the Hotel Vandivort in downtown Springfield.



Stover

Barb Schnirch

Barbara Joan Schnirch, 69, of Stover died Dec. 1, 2023, at University Hospital in Columbia.

She spent 42 years working the front office for the *Versailles Leader-Statesman* and *Morgan County Press* newspapers, retiring in September 2020.

Bryan Jones, publisher of the *Versailles Leader-Statesman*, wrote after Schnirch's death, "She was unflagging in her faithful service to the Stover and Versailles communities, spending 40-plus years of her life helping to get a newspaper out each and every week. For her, it was a calling more than a job. Not one issue, since 1977, would have made it to press without her assistance."

In addition to her mother, Schnirch is survived by three children, Eric, Jared and Carrie; 14 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; and many more family and friends through the community.



Liberty

Patrick Morgan

Patrick Joseph Morgan, 77, of Liberty died Nov. 28, 2023, after a prolonged illness.

Morgan lived most of his life in Excelsior Springs, where he served as co-published of the *Town & County Leader*, *The Daily Standard* and other Leader publications with his father. He was a board member of the Northwest Missouri Press and Central Missouri Press associations.

He was active in promoting freedom of the press in the Americas, especially in Nicaragua, Panama, El Salvador, Peru and Brazil. He sold his newspapers in 1986 and became the first reseller of Apple computer systems for newspapers. In the 1990s, he was publisher of the *Big Spring Herald* in Texas.

In addition to his wife, Vema, he is survived by two children, Shanna and Ryan; two grandsons; and many more family, friends and industry colleagues.



Rural Missouri Newspaper Scholarship applications open through Jan. 31

From Missouri Press Staff

Missouri students can again apply for the Rural Missouri Newspaper Scholarship, a need-based award for up to \$40,000 for a qualifying student attending the Missouri School of Journalism for four years (eight semesters). Students chosen for the program must be pursuing a degree in journalism or strategic communication, and upon graduation students receiving the scholarship will be expected to work for a rural Missouri newspaper for at least two years.

The deadline to apply for the 2024-25 academic year is Jan. 31. Qualification for need is determined through the federal FAFSA program.

Scholarship recipients must pursue a degree in journalism or strategic communication and must take at least one advertising course and one marketing course. Recipients will be



asked to spend a summer working at a rural Missouri newspaper (minimum of 10 weeks) through Reynolds Journalism Institute's (RJI) summer fellowship program, which includes a stipend of \$5,000 and can apply for \$1,200 from RJI's Potter Digital Ambassador program.

An application for the scholarship is available on Missouri Press' website, www.mopress.com.

Partnering together, the Missouri Press Foundation (MPF) and the Missouri School of Journalism want to attract Missouri high school graduates to the School of Journalism with the goals of preparing them to take leadership roles at rural Missouri newspapers and helping those students finance college degrees in journalism.

Four students have received the scholarship since its inception.

Brian Brooks, MPF president and professor emeritus at the Missouri

School of Journalism, said the Rural Missouri Newspaper Scholarship will give small newspapers around the state a leg up when recruiting new hires.

"Every year, rural newspapers around the state struggle with finding journalism-trained staff who can provide the kind of coverage that is critical whether your community is 500 or 5,000 people," Brooks said. "We believe a lot of up-and-coming journalists have the potential to fall in love with rural newspaper journalism. This scholarship will get more well-trained students into newsrooms and help alleviate the anxiety that comes with paying for school and securing post-graduation employment."

An application for the Rural Missouri Newspaper Scholarship can be found online at <https://bit.ly/3fOn2e3>.

Please contact MPF Director Michael Harper with any questions at (573) 449-4167, ext. 303, or mharper@mopress.com.

2024 Newspapers in Education Series Now Available

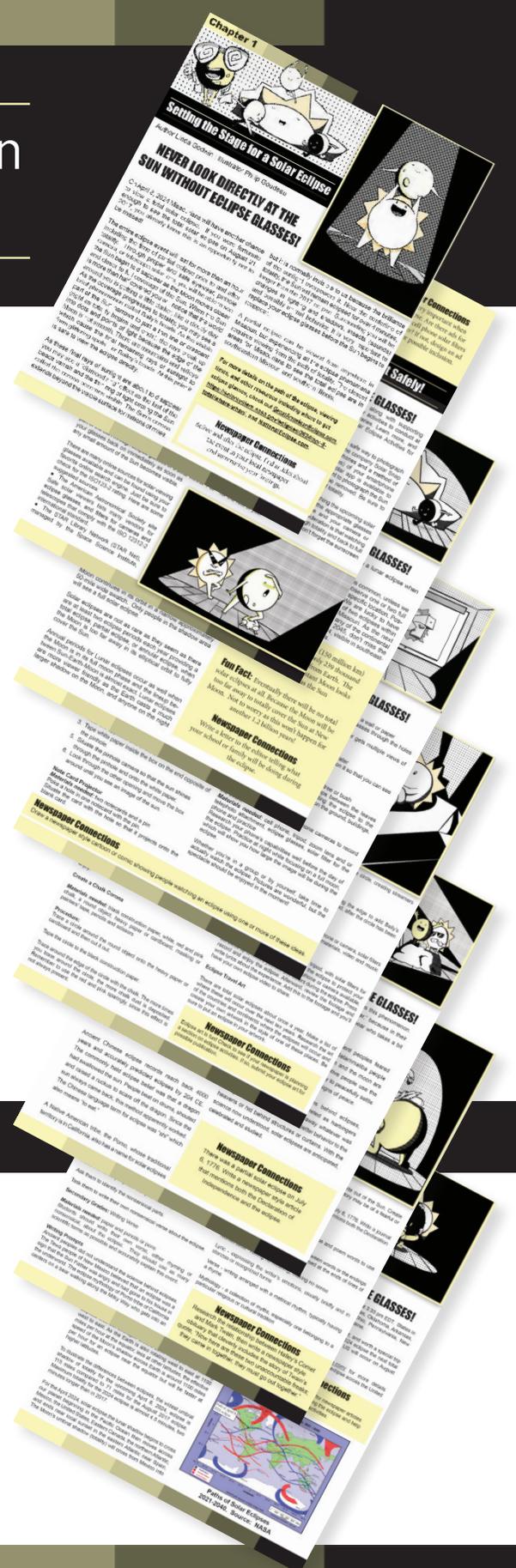
The Missouri Press Foundation and National Newspaper Association Foundation are offering a new original free series to newspapers across the country for publication.

This year, readers will enjoy an 8-chapter series that features science, art, language arts and history about solar eclipses. The solar eclipse will occur on April 8 with the path of totality crossing the country from Texas to Maine, including across the southeastern part of Missouri.

A wide swath of totality across the country and that viewers outside the path of totality will still be able to view a partial solar eclipse will ensure newspapers and readers will be drawn to this content. Dr. Linda Maxine Godwin wrote the features with science slants. She is an American scientist and retired NASA astronaut.

Godwin joined NASA in 1980 and became an astronaut in July 1986. She retired in 2010. During her career, Godwin completed four space flights and logged more than 38 days in space. Dr. Godwin is a Professor Emeritus at the Department of Physics and Astronomy of the University of Missouri. The series is illustrated by Philip Goudeau.

This series will be offered free of charge to newspapers for publication until June 30, 2024. Visit mo-nie.com and use the code: **eclipse24** to download the entire series.



Download Code: eclipse24

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&



Changes coming for 2024 Better Newspaper Contest

Be sure to read rules carefully before entering.

From Missouri Press Staff

Missouri Press News

The Missouri Press Foundation Better Newspaper Contest is scheduled to open Jan. 29, bringing with it several changes and revisions to category descriptions and rules.

First, the Better Newspaper Contest (BNC) will use the new template that newspapers should already be familiar with from uploading entries for the Missouri Press Advertising Managers and Executives (MPAME) Best Ad Contest.

The change to a new template was made to keep costs down for administering the contest, which keeps the cost of entering the contest lower for Missouri Press members. The Foundation's BNC will now use the Advanced Contest Entry System, which is operated by Illinois Press Association.

Since the new template has to be built from the ground up with Missouri Press' information, the switch was also the perfect time to make changes to the contest's category order and descriptions, explained Missouri Press Editor Matthew Barba.

Following discussion by members of the Missouri Press Contest Committee, the resulting changes have been made:

- *Dailies divisions have been reduced to 2, with the circulation cut-off being 0-7,000 and 7,001 and over.*

This change was necessary as there are fewer potential contestants and a greater need to create a healthy level of competition for all publications participating in the contest.

- *The former special section and magazine or alternative publication categories were combined.*

Missouri Press wants to continue to support newspapers that publish a separate magazine, however, maintaining it as a separate category was not generating enough entries to create actual competition, Barba said. This is something that a future Contest Committee can revisit if contestants



Winning tips for Missouri Press contests:

1. Gather your entries together in one folder on your computer, i.e. on your desktop
2. Name files with the relevant info from the entry, edition and date
3. Combine large entries or multiple pages into one file
4. Upload smaller files to the template, but for larger entries, use an outside hosting service
5. If you enter a URL into the template, it must be public or you need to provide login credentials
6. Refer to each individual contest's rules for specific guidance

begin submitting entries for magazines or their other alternative publications.

- *Similarly, the former video and multi-media reporting categories were combined.*

Each of the former categories saw a few entries, Barba said, but neither had enough to really foster competition. The category now also allows newspapers more entries for multi-media reporting.

- *Revised category descriptions to include reporting beyond just stories*

The categories for business, government, health, etc. were very limited in what could be entered, Barba said, but each year Missouri's newspapers are producing more innovative content and broadening established journalism methods to better inform readers.

By allowing for other content types, for example, a column about the outdoors, newspapers can expand what they think of as "contest worthy" and be awarded for their best work, no matter what form it takes, Barba said.

- *Added a new category for reporting on underrepresented and marginalized communities.*

This suggestion made sense as an addition, Barba said, because underrepresented and marginalized communities can differ between regions within the state. For example, a newspaper in southwest Missouri might report on migrant farm workers, while a publication in the St. Louis region could cover displaced Ukrainian immigrants seeking refuge from ongoing fighting in their home country.

Barba said he looks forward to seeing the stories, photos and other reporting that will make up this year's Better Newspaper Contest, which typically receives about 2,500 entries each year.

For more information about entering the contest, including how to use ACES, please contact Matthew Barba at mbarba@mopress.com or Member Services Director Kristie Fortier at kfortier@mopress.com.

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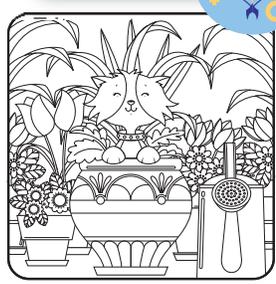
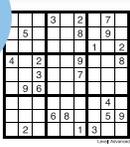
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SCRAPBOOK



Greenfield — Marlene DeClue, along with daughter Krista Guy purchased the *Greenfield Vedette* and *Lake Stockton Shopper* last month. DeClue had previously worked for the newspaper for 35 years, retiring as its manager in 2018.

The mother-daughter team purchased the *Vedette* from Lewis County Press. “The *Vedette* was a part of our family for 35 years until Mom retired,” Guy told readers in announcing the sale. “We’re so honored that LCP has given us this amazing opportunity and entrusting us to carry on with *The Vedette*. We look forward to having it back in the family and being a part of the Dade County community again.”

Guy has some experience working with her mother at the newspaper over the years and looks forward to continuing in her footsteps to be the record for the community. Bob Jackson and Chailsee Boxberger will continue working at the newspaper, while Lavinia Thornhill, a former *Vedette* employee, will also join the team.

At right, Marlene DeClue and daughter Krista Guy are the new owners of the *Greenfield Vedette*, having purchased it last month from Lewis County Press. DeClue spent 35 years at the newspaper, retiring as its manager in 2018. (Submitted/*Greenfield Vedette*)



A drone photo by Brady Sunderland of the *Bethany Republican-Clipper* of a burning Waste Management facility won first place in Publisher’s Auxiliary’s fourth quarter photo contest. The newspaper has been using Sunderland’s drone photos to vary its coverage. (Submitted/Brady Sunderland/*Bethany Republican-Clipper*)

Bethany — Brady Sunderland and the *Bethany Republican-Clipper* recently won first place in the fourth quarter photo contest held by Publisher’s Auxiliary, the official publication of the *N e w s p a p e r*



The photo was a drone shot made over the summer of a fire at a Waste Management facility. Phil Conger, editor of the *Clipper*, said Sunderland has developed a skill in shooting pictures from a drone, bringing a new element of coverage for the newspaper.

Sunderland joined the newspaper in 2021, after attending college in Nebraska, where he studied graphic design. His duties now mostly include sports and other general news.

Send YOUR newspaper's news and moves to mbarba@mopress.com.

Are you using these resources?

Expand and enhance your editorial coverage.

From Missouri Press Staff

Missouri Press News

As a local newspaper, nobody knows your community like you do because it's YOUR beat. But what about statewide coverage, or business news, or the ongoing effects of policies long-since signed into law?

Much commentary has been written in recent years about the collaborative future of journalism, but in many ways local newspapers have always relied on collaboration

to keep the community informed. Remember country correspondents? Or how about running photos a parent took at the game your staff couldn't attend?

That's how you get the job done for your local community, but what if you want to expand your coverage beyond the city, county or region?

There are several statewide and even national services your newspaper can take advantage of and, in some cases, even help contribute to the stories being produced.

Missouri Independent

The Missouri Independent is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization covering state government, politics and policy. It is staffed by veteran Missouri reporters and is dedicated to investigative journalism that sheds light on how decisions in Jefferson City are made and their impact across the Show-Me State.

Missouri Independent's work is free for other news outlets to republish. Requirements for republishing include only editing for style or to shorten a story's length, provide proper attribution and a link to the Missouri Independent website, <https://missouriindependent.com>.

Contributed Content Connection

A service for articles written by subject-matter experts with free and paid options available. The no-cost media outlet version limits you to two requests per month.

You can establish guidelines for submissions, including that the expert's work is not self-promotional, hasn't been published elsewhere and isn't AI-generated content. You can also specify word count minimum and maximums, as well as requests experts from specific geographic areas.

Learn more at <https://contributedcontentconnection.com/>.

Missouri Business Alert

A digital newsroom providing business news from across the state while training University of Missouri students in new technology and methods, giving them hands-on experience in business reporting, marketing and other skills.

Sign up for the Morning Minutes newsletter to get a rundown of statewide business news. Content from the Missouri Business Alert newsroom is available for republication with attribution, similar to other Missouri School of Journalism projects.

Visit missouribusinessalert.com to subscribe to the newsletter or contact Managing Editor Michael Stacy at stacyjm@missouri.edu with questions about content.

Capitol Report

Each legislative session the Missouri School of Journalism sends reporters to Jefferson City for the State Government Reporting Project.

The Capitol Report is available to all MPA members for republishing. A weekly recap of the stories produced by reporters in the Capitol is distributed to MPA members by Missouri Press staff and stories of particular note are sometimes distributed separately to allow members to use them more quickly.

Newspapers wanting a more localized approach to statehouse reporting are encouraged to contact Mark Horvit with story ideas or requests for comment from legislators in response to specific legislation or state policy. Horvit can be contacted by email at horvitm@missouri.edu.

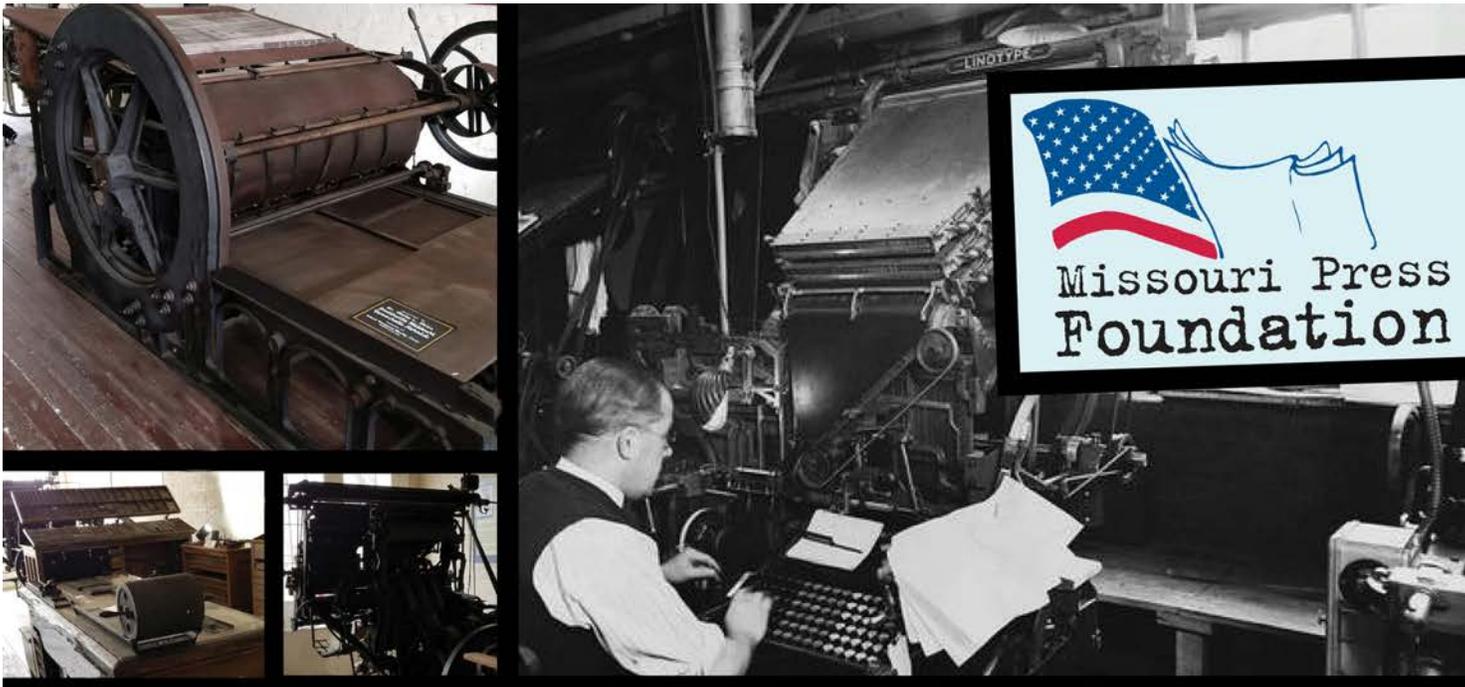
To receive the Capitol Report weekly emails, email Matthew Barba at mbarba@mopress.com.

The Conversation

Faculty from research universities throughout the U.S. contribute articles on pressing news topics, which are available for free republication by news outlets and organizations at theconversation.com.

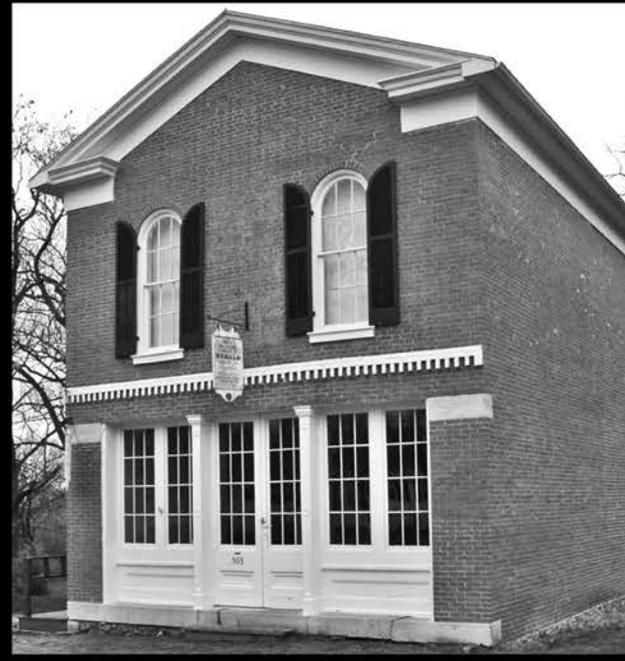
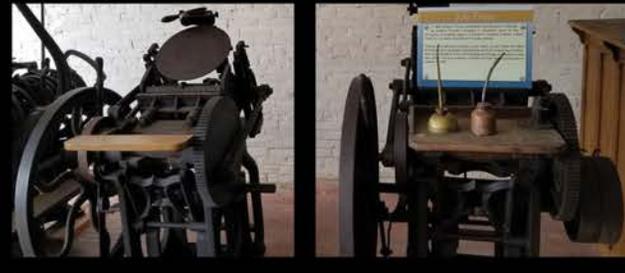
Stories are published from editorial areas that include politics, economy/business, education, environment and energy, health, science and technology.

Republishing guidelines for online and in print are available at <https://theconversation.com/us/republishing-guidelines>.



BRING THE ARROW ROCK PRINT MUSEUM BACK TO LIFE

We have a rare opportunity at the Missouri Press Foundation to turn back time and return the historical presses at Arrow Rock back to full working order, but we need your help to be able to recreate the magical days of print for future generations. Donors to the Foundation have put up \$7,500 and are asking you to consider matching their donations to raise \$7,500 more for a total of \$15,000 to return these antique artifacts back to their glory days.




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MPA's Maassen, association directors meet at Taiwanese diplomatic estate

From Missouri Press Staff

The Newspapers Association Managers (NAM), which includes executive directors of press associations from around the U.S. and Canada, met last month in Washington, D.C.

Missouri Press Association Executive Director Mark Maassen is currently serving as president of NAM. He led the group's delegation for a reception at Twin Oaks, a palatial mansion that formerly served as residence for ambassadors of the Republic of China, or Taiwan.

Constructed in 1888, Twin Oaks was the project of Gardiner Greene Hubbard, founder of the National Geographic Society. Twin Oaks is now the location of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office, which is not a formal embassy due to the United States' One China policy.



Above, members of the Newspapers Association Managers met last month in Washington, D.C. and attended a reception at Twin Oaks, which houses the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office. Taiwan does not have a formal embassy in the U.S. At right, during the visit, Missouri Press Association Executive Director Mark Maassen, center, met with Dr. Wang Jiang-Jia, left, and Robin Cheng, deputy representative of Taiwan's Taipei Economic and Cultural Representation Office in the U.S.. (Submitted)



Has your newspaper used the free poetry column?

From Missouri Press Staff

Missouri Press, on behalf of the *Springfield News-Leader*, has made a column focused on poetry. The columns are available for newspapers to republish at no charge.

A list of installments in the column series is available on Missouri Press' website, and MPA will continue to distribute new columns via email as they become available.

The column is a result of Missouri Poet Laureate David L. Harrison's efforts to "remind us all, no matter our age, work, religion, politics, interests, ethnicities, or gender, that poetry is part of our lives. We read it, hear it, sing it, paint it, dance it, act it, and write it."

If you are using the column, let Missouri Press know by sending an acknowledgement to mbarba@mopress.com.

Are you interested in Spanish-language content?

From Missouri Press Staff

Would your newspaper be interested in having available Spanish-language content, including Newspaper in Education serial stories and features?

Missouri Press is gauging member interest in making content available in Spanish for newspapers to republish online or even in print.

Let us know if this is something you'd be interested in for your newspaper by emailing mbarba@mopress.com.

Missouri Press Association / Service / Foundation

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Missouri Newspaper Organizations

SHOW-ME PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, Roxie Murphy, *Maries County Advocate*; Directors: Hannah Spaar, *The Odessan*, Odessa; Gary Castor, *Jefferson City News Tribune*; Tim Schmidt, Westplex Media; Jacob Warden, Warden Publishing.

OZARK PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, Amanda Mendez, *Howell County News*, Willow Springs; Vice President, Jordan Troutman, *Cassville Democrat*; Secretary-Treasurer, Dan Wehmer, *Webster County Citizen*, Seymour; Past President, Ron Schott, *Wright County Journal*, Mountain Grove. Directors: Steve Pokin, *Springfield Daily Citizen*; Shelby Atkison, *Marshfield Mail*; Kimball Long, *El Dorado Springs Sun*; and Kyle Troutman, *Cassville Democrat*.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, Lucas Presson, Cape Girardeau; Second Vice President, Tamara Buck, Cape Girardeau; Secretary-Treasurer, Gina Raffety, Jackson; Historian, Peggy Scott, Festus. Directors: Kim Combs, Piedmont; and Jay Forness, Jackson.

NORTHWEST MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, Ken Garner, *The Maryville Forum/Grant City Times-Tribune*; Vice President, Brent Rosenauer, *The Savannah Reporter*; Secretary, Kathy Conger, Bethany Republican-Clipper, and Skye Pournazari, *The Maryville Forum/Grant City Times-Tribune*; Treasurer, W.C. Farmer, *The Atchison County Mail*, Rock Port.

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Director Emeritus: Rogers Hewitt, Shelbyville.

MISSOURI COLLEGE MEDIA ASSOCIATION: President, Rachel Becker, University of Central Missouri; Vice President, Sydney Ellison, Truman State University; Secretary, Ellie Whitesell, University of Central Missouri; Adviser, Julie Lewis, University of Central Missouri; and MPA Liaison, Jack Dimond, Missouri State University.

Who is your business' registered agent?

Early in the year is a good time for you to do a little check-up on administrative tasks. I'm talking about your business and corporate activities. If you are a C- or S-corporation and registered as a corporation with the Missouri Secretary of State, you should be filing an annual registration report with that office listing your officers and directors.

When you do that, always double-check to ensure your registered agent is correct — if someone is filing suit against you, that is who they serve and if that person isn't doing their job for you, you won't get notice of the suit. A (non-media) client had a default judgment taken against them this year for that very reason.

If you are a limited liability company, you don't get annual reports to complete. But whatever kind of entity you are, you should check your registered agent identification and also make sure you have a fictitious name registration for your newspaper's name.

Why am I bringing this up? Well, at the same time you do this, you need to take time to create your company's entry in a new federally-controlled Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). This network is officially referred to as the Beneficial Ownership Secure System (BOSS). The data which BOSS contains will not be considered a public record, because the law creating it (Corporate Transparency Act) excludes it from Freedom of Information Act access. But federal, state, and local authorities and some financial institutions will have access.

When you create this report, you must provide names, dates of birth, residential addresses and photographs (the word "mugshots" seems appropriate here) of anyone who has a 25 percent or more ownership interest in your business. If you file documents with the Secretary of State for any "corporate" reason, your business is covered by this law. While there are a few exempted entities, no media entity would be considered exempt,

no matter how small you are, assuming you have formed a limited liability company or corporation for your business. A sole proprietorship would appear to be exempt, however.

One survey from FinCEN estimated nearly 33 million companies will be affected. A report from the Small Business Administration said about 27 million small businesses will be affected.

The U.S. Treasury has created a website at <http://tinyurl.com/mr3379rz> which offers a Small Entity Compliance Guide to assist your business in complying with this rule. I strongly suggest you find that guide and use it to help you in this process.

It's a wonderful interactive online guide to assist you through the steps required to register. The online site for registration will be available after January 1.

You will have until January 30 to make this initial filing. Changes in beneficial ownership must be reported within 30 days of the event occurring. If you form a new corporate entity, you will have 30 days after its formation to report it on this system.

And any entity that existed prior to January 1, 2024, but which has been inactive or considered "closed" still must be reported and subsequently updated to show termination unless the entity was formally terminated prior to January 1.

What happens if I don't file? Well,

The Small Entity Compliance Guide helps businesses comply with the Corporate Transparency Act. You can find the guide online at www.fincen.gov or at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/mr3379rz>

the Act provides for fines and penalties for failure to register. The fines start at \$500/day for failure to register up to \$10,000 per violation, and possible jail time (see earlier reference to "mug shots"). But — good news — if your entity existed prior to January 1 of 2024, there is a one-year period during which you will be exempt from violation penalties if you get registered by January 1, 2025.

On a personal level, I suspect

this law is going to surprise a lot of small businesses. Those who don't get notice from articles like this will likely be reminded of this when their accountant works on their tax return for this year.

Larger companies will have corporate entities dealing with this, but smaller businesses will need to add this to the list of things to remember when there are changes in ownership or business addresses

Wishing all of us a wonderful 2024. Start watching for notices from MPA about the need to contact your legislators, who start back to work early this month.

And plan to come to Jefferson City for Day at the Capitol. I'll see you there!



Jean Maneke, is MPA's Legal Hotline attorney. Contact her at (816) 753-9000; jmaneke@manekelaw.com.



Have you earned your press pass?

Since last year, Missouri Press Association members have had access to a different kind of training tool. Earn Your Press Pass is a web-based course that teaches the fundamentals of journalism.

Earn Your Press Pass is intended to fill the gaps for newspapers having difficulty recruiting trained journalists.

The course is provided to all Missouri Press members at no cost.

Earn Your Press Pass provides new hires the information and structure they need to sit down and complete lessons that teach the basics of good journalism. Everything from common newspaper terminology to story writing to media laws are covered in the materials.

Not intended as a college-level course, the goal of Earn Your Press Pass is to impart practical, usable knowledge to participants. Lessons take the layperson to a functioning newspaper reporter upon completion in a straight-forward and comprehensive approach.

It's also a great tool to give your sales people some additional training in case they stumble upon a story while making the rounds in the community.

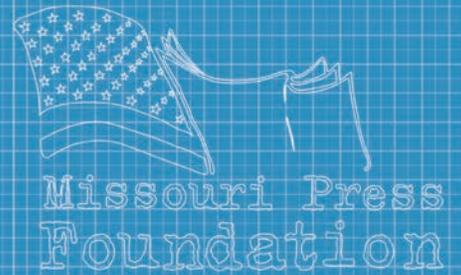
One MPA newspaper group even had the brilliant idea of using it to introduce journalism to high school students.

Makes sense, as Earn Your Press Pass began as a cooperative project with the Kansas Press Association and Lindsey Young, part owner of Kansas Publishing Ventures, which operates four community weekly newspapers in south central Kansas. Previously a high school teacher, Young has experience instructing students in everything from English to public speaking to journalism.

Visit earnyourpresspass.com to learn more about what the course can offer your publication and staff.

To sign up for the course and get added to the Missouri Press group, email mbarba@mopress.com or kfortier@mopress.com.

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